



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SEATTLE DISTRICT
4735 EAST MARGINAL WAY SOUTH, BLDG 1202
SEATTLE, WA 98134-2388

Regulatory Branch

May 30, 2023

Mr. Neil Carpenter
2428 Coppei Road
Waitsburg, Washington 99361

Reference: NWS-2023-201
Carpenter, Neil
(Coppei Creek, Section
7)

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

We have reviewed your application to restore one mile of Coppei Creek by excavating and placing up to 885 cubic yards of stream gravel fill material over 7,050 square feet to install large wood structures, remove sections of an existing levee, excavate pilot channels and install constructed riffle complexes in order to improve the hydrologic and habitat functions for ESA-listed fish species near Waitsburg, Walla Walla County, Washington. Based on the information you provided to us, Nationwide Permit (NWP) 27, *Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities* (Federal Register December 27, 2021 Vol. 86, No. 245), authorizes your proposal as depicted on the enclosed drawings dated November 30, 2022.

In order for this authorization to be valid, you must ensure the work is performed in accordance with the enclosed *NWP 27, Terms and Conditions* and the following special conditions:

- a. This U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) permit does not authorize you to take a threatened or endangered species, in particular the Middle Columbia River steelhead. In order to legally take a listed species, you must have a separate authorization under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (e.g., an ESA Section 10 permits, or ESA Section 7 consultation Biological Opinion (BO) with non-discretionary "incidental take" provisions with which you must comply). The Habitat Restoration Program Limit 8 BO prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) dated February 28, 2007, contains mandatory terms and conditions to implement the reasonable and prudent measures that are associated with the specified "incidental take" in the BO (NMFS Reference Number 2006/05601). Your authorization under this Corps permit is conditional upon your compliance with all of the mandatory terms and conditions associated

with incidental take of the BO. These terms and conditions are incorporated by reference in this permit. Failure to comply with the commitments made in this document constitutes non-compliance with the ESA and your Corps permit. The NMFS is the appropriate authority to determine compliance with the ESA.

- b. To ensure the project results in a net increase in aquatic resource functions and services, an as-built report and drawings shall be submitted within six months of project completion. This report should state if any adaptive management is required to ensure a net increase in aquatic resource functions; if this work would require additional impacts to waters of the U.S., you must wait for approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Regulatory Branch, before commencing that work. The as-built report must prominently display the reference number NWS-2023-201.

We have reviewed your project pursuant to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. We have determined this project complies with the requirements of these laws provided you comply with all of the permit general and special conditions.

Please be reminded that Special Condition “a” of your permit requires that you implement and abide by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements set forth in the programmatic Biological Opinion (BO) for this project. In particular, within 45 days of project completion, you must provide the Action Completion Reporting Form, as described in the BO.

Please note that National General Condition 21, *Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts*, found in the *Nationwide Permit Terms and Conditions* enclosure, details procedures that must be followed should an inadvertent discovery occur. You must ensure that you comply with this condition during the construction of your project.

The authorized work complies with the Washington State Department of Ecology’s (Ecology) Water Quality Certification (WQC) requirements for this NWP. No further coordination with Ecology for WQC is required.

You have not requested a jurisdictional determination for this proposed project. If you believe the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not have jurisdiction over all or portions of your project you may request a preliminary or approved jurisdictional determination (JD). If one is requested, please be aware that we may require the submittal of additional information to complete the JD and work authorized in this letter may not occur until the JD has been completed.

Our verification of this NWP authorization is valid until March 14, 2026, unless the NWP is modified, reissued, or revoked prior to that date. If the authorized work for the NWP authorization has not been completed by that date and you have commenced or are under contract to commence this activity before March 14, 2026, you will have until March 14, 2027, to complete the activity under the enclosed terms and conditions of this NWP. Failure to comply with all terms and conditions of this NWP verification invalidates this authorization and could result in a violation of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. You must also obtain all local, State, and other Federal permits that apply to this project.

You are cautioned that any change in project location or plans will require that you submit a copy of the revised plans to this office and obtain our approval before you begin work. Deviating from the approved plans could result in the assessment of criminal or civil penalties.

Upon completing the authorized work, you must fill out and return the enclosed *Certificate of Compliance with Department of the Army Permit*. All compliance reports should be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Regulatory Branch electronically at nws.compliance@usace.army.mil. Thank you for your cooperation during the permitting process. We are interested in your experience with our Regulatory Program and encourage you to complete a customer service survey. Referenced documents and information about our program are available on our website at www.nws.usace.army.mil, select "Regulatory Permit Information". If you have any questions, please contact me at David.J.Moore@usace.army.mil or (206) 316-3166.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Moore", with a stylized, flowing script.

David Moore, Project Manager
Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

cc: Ecology (ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov)